

Teachers: We are excited to have you and your students visit the Fresno Art Museum. Here is some pre-visit information for you, your chaperones, and your students:

Sometimes kids get too many rules—so we want to get the rules out of the way up front and make learning them a fun and interactive activity. We want you to give the students the reasons behind some of the rules and have them figure out why other rules exist. They can usually guess.



The brochure “**What is a Museum?**” is provided for each of your students to keep. We hope it helps to demystify what an art museum is and gets the students excited about their field trip. We want your students’ visit to be positive and memorable so that your students will be encouraged to return again and again over the coming years.

You may distribute the brochure to each of your students and talk to them about what a museum is and about these rules before your visit.

If it's your first or 100th visit to an
ART MUSEUM we want to make it *fun* and memorable...

What is a Museum?

A museum is a building that protects, preserves, and displays objects (artifacts) of interest or significance. The objects can be artistic, cultural, scientific, and/or HISTORICAL. A museum is a place you can go to **look**, explore, learn, and enjoy.

ART MUSEUMS are usually supported by members (you could be one), government and private grants, **sponsors** (people or businesses who love the arts), events, and renting the museum space to the **public** for things like parties or weddings.

When visiting a museum, you do not touch the art or artifacts:

You can explain why you can't touch the artifacts and objects in a museum. Or better yet, let your students try to guess why.

And what's the reason? We can't touch because our fingers contain dirt and oils, even after we just wash them. Suggest that the students should imagine if everyone at school touched the same object in a museum, it would eventually become dirty and oily or damaged, especially with things like paintings, sculptures, or works made of paper, they could fall apart or change color, or you could accidentally break or puncture something, and future visitors would not be able to experience and enjoy the work. Some artworks are so fragile, that one touch could permanently damage it. You can explain that curators and preparators that work in a museum wear special

white gloves when they touch artifacts in order to protect them. They also are carefully trained in how to handle and care for the artifacts, as they are responsible for preserving them and making sure they are safe while they are in their care.

You can try this experiment: Fold a white piece of paper in half and pass it around the classroom, only touching the outside. After everyone has touched it, open the paper and compare the wrinkles on the touched side to the untouched side. You can also try rubbing your fingers together until they get hot. You should be able to feel the oils that come out of your fingertips.



Photography without a flash and for your own use is now allowed in most exhibitions in the Fresno Art Museum. NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPY, tripods, selfie sticks, or professional cameras.

This Museum policy recently changed because of the way people use social media and how important social media is in sharing experiences. So we now allow photography of most items for personal use when the artist or copyright holder has given permission. Of course, you cannot photograph an artist's work and then sell the picture—the art is still protected by copyright. And no flash because light can be harmful to artwork, so flash photography is a definite no-no in a museum. Tell the students to note the dim lights when they visit the museum. That is done to help protect the artwork from light damage. Prolonged light exposure can make colors fade and look dull. To show students how this happens, select a picture from a magazine and expose it to direct sunlight continuously for the school year so that they can see how over time the colors dull.

You may ask your students questions to see if they can guess why there are other rules in the Museum. Here are some ideas:

- **Can you guess why you can't eat or drink in the Museum?** (Answers to look for: You could spill something causing someone to slip and fall; or you could get food or drink on the artwork and damage it.)
- **Can you guess why you can't run, skip, or rough house? Can you guess why you can't scream and yell?** (Answers to look for: You could crash into things, people, or artwork. You could fall and get hurt, or hurt someone else, or damage or break something. You could disturb other people that are trying to look at the artwork, are listening to a docent, or who may be trying to have a quiet discussion with a friend.)
- **Can you guess why you can only write or draw with a pencil in the Museum?** (Answers to look for: Ink pens are usually permanent and if you make a mistake you might get some ink on a wall, on the floor, or, worst of all, on an artwork. If you make a mistake with a pencil, it's easier to erase.)



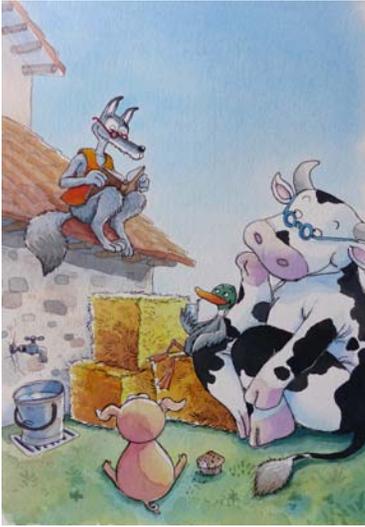
We strongly encourage you to introduce your students to three of the elements of art (line, shape, and color) prior to visiting the Museum to make the trip even more beneficial to your students. You have been provided with some simple and fun pre-visit lesson plans to introduce these art concepts.

To make your trip successful, please share this information with your chaperones and other staff that may accompany you and your students to the Museum. You may also share the "Thank You Chaperones!" page following this page.

Questions regarding your visit to FAM:
Call or email Susan at 559-441-4221 x 101 or
Susan@FresnoArtMuseum.org

Questions regarding bus and scheduling, please
contact Yolanda Serna at (559) 248-7172
Yolanda.Serna@fresnounified.org





Thank you for being a chaperone!

We appreciate you taking the time to assist in making the children's visit to the art museum the best experience possible!

Most Important!

Help us protect our delicate space by reminding the children not to touch or lean on the walls, the pedestals, or the artwork.

Here are some tips to help make the field trip a success:

1. Set an example for the children by following the rules (including staying three feet/tiles back from the art) as will be discussed before entering the Museum. **By you modeling the rules, good behavior will be encouraged.**
2. Stay with your group during the tour and engage with the students. Make the Museum an electronics-free zone by turning your cell phone off or putting it on silent.
3. We love to have adults that actively participate on tours, but remember that the children's questions come first. And be sure to let them answer the questions posed to them before jumping in.
4. If you notice children distracting each other or getting rambunctious, help them stay focused and calm by quietly separating them or sitting quietly with them. Discourage off-subject conversations.
5. Non-flash photography is allowed in many, but not all, of our exhibitions. If you want to take pictures just ask where photography is permitted.
6. Children need to be accompanied by an adult when going into the restroom - only five children at a time in each.
7. Plan ahead: No backpacks or large bags/purses please. Pens are not allowed in the galleries but pencils are okay. No food or drinks are allowed in the galleries.

We hope that your trip is fun and filled with inspiration and learning!

To find out more about the museum go to fresnoartmuseum.org or follow us on [Facebook.com/fresnoartmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/fresnoartmuseum)